

# DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

## BOARD OF EDUCATION CURRICULUM/ACADEMICS COMMITTEE MEETING

March 1, 2017 – 5:30pm  
Fisher Building, 3011 W. Grand Blvd.  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Detroit, MI 48202

### MINUTES

#### **Call to Order**

The Curriculum/Academics Committee Meeting of the Board of Education of the Detroit Public Schools Community District was called to order by Chair Hunter-Harvill at 5:30pm.

#### **Meeting Norms**

Meeting Norms were read by the Chair

#### **Meeting Participation**

Present: Deborah Hunter-Harvill, Chair, Georgia Lemmon, Member

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Chair called a motion to approve the Agenda  
Committee Members moved for approval  
Agenda approved by all members

#### **Approval of Minutes**

No minutes available

#### **Exploration of School Reform/Redesign Models**

Dr. Diane Walker, DPSCD School Improvement, based her presentation on research from her dissertation which examines years of research on turn-around schools and what qualities makeup an affective schools. The four (4) core presented Working hair received a message from the Interim Superintendent that she would not be attending the meeting

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The following measures need to be in place for a school to be determined effective:

- ✓ Safe Orderly Environment
- ✓ Positive Home/School Relationships
- ✓ Strong Instructional Leadership
- ✓ Frequent Monitoring of Student Progress
- ✓ High Expectations for Success
- ✓ Opportunity to Learn
- ✓ Commitment to the School's Mission

Dr. Walker's framework for school improvement is based on what she refers to as the Domains of Effectiveness which include Strategic Leadership, Impactful Teaching, Empowered Learners, and Positive Relationships. Positive Relationships is the number one driver for an effective school and potential for reform. A full model would address all of the above.

The information Dr. Walker has presented has not been shared with staff.

It was noted by Alvin Wood, Senior Executive Director, School Support that Principal's Academy has not been utilized in the District in many years. At least not in the format of previous years. Would have to be brought back. Professional Development Academy exists but is only staffed by one person.

The Success for any reform model is that it is implemented.

Chair requested a copy of the Reform Models currently being used by the District to see if they are in fact being used. Chair had targeted 27 Models for review.

Lexia Reading Core5 Business Representative, Janice Barnes presented on the programs offered in relation to students with special needs. Lexia was founded in 1984 through a research grant from the National Institute for Child and Human Development. The mission of the company is "Reading". Making children competent and confident in their reading ability. Program goal is to accelerate the learning of special needs students by increasing the growth of 2 to 3 years of growth within a year's time. It is a Web based program with some teacher involvement. Research behind the program was provided. Lexia Reading Core5 have six areas of reading instruction aligning with the Common Core State Standards:

- Phonological Awareness
- Phonics/PA

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- Structural Analysis
- Automaticity/Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension

## **Pay for Performance Program – Quick 2 Learn Final Presentation for Approval**

Quick 2 Learn Business Director and Manager James J. Beasley, Jr. presented on the uniqueness of their program which is designed as an intervention to move zero percentile schools out of priority status in one school year. As a reference to the success of the program, Sue Pann, Superintendent of Three Lakes Academy, located in Curtis, Michigan. The audience posed various questions with responses from both Ms. Pann and Mr. Beasley. Students would receive personal learning devices and internet access for the home. The device is a step up from the iPad and faster. Program is also bilingual. It was suggested that the District Technology department run on the network.

Chair Hunter-Harvill questioned the possible barriers foreseen to integrating the program so we data can be collected for the remaining months.

Nekeya Irby, Senior Executive Director, Curriculum Instruction and Accountability stated the following would be barriers to integrating the program:

- Identification of the Schools
- Teacher Utilization
- Coverage Coordination of the classrooms selected
- Location of Professional Development – internal or external
- Current Policies and Procedures

Teacher service would be the number one concern due to the current teacher shortage. The central person for the District would be Nekeya Irby.

## **DPSCD Priority Schools Plan – School Reform Models**

Interim General Superintendent Meriweather spoke briefly about the State School Reform Office and potential school closures and reprieve from the Governor. The Innovation Zone is a plan that has three (3) concepts based on:

Equity - looking at the specific needs of each school and giving them what they need.

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Stability – acknowledging instability and focusing on restoring stability such as restoring feeder patterns and improving teacher service.

Individualized Plans – recognizing that each school is different and designing a plan specific to each school.

## **Ross-Hill Academy Closure Recommendation**

Ross-Hill Academy will be given three (3) weeks to address concerns before a recommendation to close.

Kisha Verduco is requesting reauthorization of Capstone Academy and Trix, Murphy, and Steward Academies returning from EAA. Jolia Hill, Manager, Wayne RESA and Brian Manning from Wayne County decided were present as representatives for Capstone Academy. Bruce Academy which serves the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facilities will be closing. The county is in talks with EdTech Management Company of Capstone to have oversight added under DPSCD. The finances are sound and academic performance is stellar at Capstone.

Also a request for reauthorization for Trix, Murphy and Stewart Academies that are currently under the Education Achievement Authority (EAA) to return to DPSCD. The management company is Performance Academies. The Chair of the school Board James Shelberg and Dr. Stephanie Widner, Superintendent were present.

## **County Millage Funds**

According to Steve Wasko, Executive Director, Enrollment, stated no decision has been made regarding millage funds.

Chair wants the District to work proactively as opposed to reactively in preparation of expenditures for millage funds. Ms. Irby stated they could provide the recommendations provided during the millage campaign poll. Also working with the Board to find out if there are other recommendations polling the community and members.

A report with the information will be provided for the March 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Dr. Diane Walker was requested to attend the February 29<sup>th</sup> meeting to take a look at the School Reform Models. Secretary will email the reform models from Chair.

The next meeting date on the agenda was listed as Wednesday, February 29, 2017. The agenda will be amended to note the correct meeting date of Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

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Alvin Woods, Senior Executive Director, School Support will report back on a concern regarding a potential Memorandum of Understanding Agreement MOU that states the District will not accept or allow wrap-around-support services in the buildings.

Chair inquired about the Student Code of Conduct and if copies were distributed to students.

Mr. Woods stated yes as audience members stated the opposite. It was concluded that the Code of Conduct is available online but have not been distributed to students. Mr. Woods will look into the issue with David Hopkins who is over the Code office.

## **Public Comments**

Several public comments were made

## **Announcements**

Wayne State University High School Bridge Program


Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship

Wayne State University Journalism Scholarship

## **Adjournment**

Chair requested motion to adjourn

No objections meeting adjourned at 7:58pm

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Morgan', is written over a horizontal line.

Certified:

Karen Morgan, B.S.B.M

Secretary of the Board